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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1917.

RUSSIA'S COMMERCIAL AWAKENING

Russia is awakened economically as well as politically by the war.

Word has just been received by the Department of Commerce, that the building of 60,000 miles of railroad to cost upward of a billion dollars has been authorized.

This construction program will give great opportunity to the makers of American railroad material and equipment, but other industries seeking world trade will have to look sharp for Russian competition.

An awakened Russia has trade resources equal, if not superior, to her war resources. The possibilities of industrial expansion under the new era are almost limitless. No other nation on the earth has the combination of natural resources and men that has Russia.

Development of the empire will mean much to America, if our business and industrial men seize the opportunity and cultivate it now, but it must not be forgotten that the building of great industries in Russia will mean the building of great forces to meet our own foreign trade development in the markets of the world.

HOW TO COMPEL AN ELECTION

Senator Norris of Nebraska is a good man. If his intellects were as well developed as his conscience he would be a brilliant man. In ascribing the sinking of the three American vessels to the President's order to arm other ships, the Senator betrays unfamiliarity with the ordinary rules of logic. But the event seems to have satisfied him that war is inevitable. He was "one of the twelve," and moreover, was one of the two who were openly agreed that there should be no vote on the bill authorizing the arming of the ships. He has doubtless suffered from the storm of criticism that has burst upon his head from his own State.

Senator Norris expressed wish not to stay longer in the Senate if he is found to misrepresent his people is commendable. In the absence of the recall for Federal officers, he proposes an election to determine whether he shall remain in the Senate. If the Senator is really, in earnest, he can compel an election. Let him resign his commission to the governor, as Senator Bailey once did, only without any string tied to the resignation, and there will be a vacancy to be filled. Then he can test his acceptability with the people of Nebraska by running for the office again. Senators Conkling and Platt once resigned their offices expecting the legislature of New York to vindicate them by re-electing them. The legislature disappointed them, it is true. But the people of Nebraska might not disappoint Senator Norris. The plan is worth trying if Senator Norris really wants to know how his people feel about him.

DIAMOND FRIGHTFULNESS AHEAD

Fans need have no apprehension over the recent announcement that "baseball is ready for an era of peace." This referred simply to inter-league war and labor and capital differences within the "profess." It may be stated authoritatively that no Amalgamated Order of Baseball Players will declare a general strike for a new seven-inning game limit, with bonuses for all hands for each inning thereafter and for each batter up after the sixth man in any inning.

And as for the individual clubs, from the victory-swollen Bean Eaters here in the East to the hungry Cubs, frothing mightily out on the shingly shores of Lake Michigan, they are all so full of battle that the only danger lies in the impossibility of restraining them from mobilizing as a special hand grenade corps for service on the back to Berlin circuit in the event of our military mobilization. Not a team in the bunch is too proud to fight, and each and every manager gives firm assurance that there will be no peace without victory.

And The Day is April 11!

GERMANY'S GREAT SPRING RETIREMENT

For several days the triumphant vanguards of British and French have been marching through delivered towns. Bapaume and Peronne, long and bitterly defended by the invader, have welcomed the British; Roye, Noyon, and Nesle are suddenly in the hands of Frenchmen. Paris announces 100 villages and towns redeemed by the French alone in three days. Here is a sudden turn for the better, an inspiring fulfillment of expectations entertained for more than

two years, a demonstration that Germany at last lacks the numbers to continue winning on a chosen front and holding fast elsewhere.

Let us consider chiefly the shift of ground, which is the situation's dominant material fact. The Germans began visibly to let go at Bapaume toward the end of February, after the British had driven them from the lines of the Ancre, at Miraumont. They yielded slowly at first and more rapidly as time went on. During the past week they have given up cities and areas of country almost as fast as would have an army retreating in the open field in the days before trench warfare existed.

The withdrawal, after gathering headway, was at or near its height this week. It had already extended over a front of sixty miles, linear distance, between Arras and the river Aisne. At first the Germans gave up a mile or two a week, forcing the British to bring up the slow baggage of siege warfare against successive lines. Lately the French have broken through the German screen with cavalry and light troops in such fashion as to raise the rate of progression to several miles a day, and the British no doubt followed the example in pressing on more rapidly. The German retreat, however, shows evidence of having been carefully co-ordinated. Thus far the front has been drawn back without buckling or cracking. Just as the ceded towns, dismantled with impressive thoroughness, give evidence of preparations for retreat begun a month ago, so does the precise alignment of the rear guards reveal tactical planning of the minute order in which the officers of the German general staff are adept. The move may surprise some folk in the armies of the entente, but it wears the aspect of an operation deliberately decided upon in advance and marked out as to its extent and object.

From Lille, on the old Belgian border, southward at first and then bending a trifle to the east, a fairly straight line drawn on the map passes through a series of cities strung along at intervals of from fifteen to thirty miles. These are Lille, Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin, and Laon. They form a remarkable defensive chain, free from twists and turns and crossed by few obstacles. The first three towns are linked by a direct railway route. Cambrai's railway connection with St. Quentin is roundabout, but between the two towns runs a canal. The link between St. Quentin and Laon is weakest, having but an indirect railway connection and being crossed by the river Oise. Nevertheless it can be compared in strength with the line that the Germans held for over two years.

The line of five cities forms the frame of the front to which the Germans are now retreating. How much of the forefield they are prepared to hold, beyond the line itself, is of course conjecture. That they should yield even this line and fall a long distance farther back is only barely possible. The obviously probable limit of the present retirement is the chain of cities we have named. At their recent rate the withdrawing Germans in the area south of Arras are in no place more than ten miles distant from the front that they may be expected to defend.

As compared with the line that was ceded, the Lille-Laon line is superior in many respects. It is only about two-thirds as long. As against the old line's framework, based on the small and irregularly scattered towns of Lens, Bapaume, Peronne, Roye, and Noyon, it has larger towns, more regularly placed. It may in fact be considered as the main line, of which that defended till the other day was only the outwork.

The chief gain to the western allies, apart from such intangibles as the newly gained feeling of superiority and success, is in the recovery of something near 1,000 square miles of fertile territory, in time, if prompt measures be taken, for spring planting. The cession of the ground does not do away with German chances of capturing Ypres, Dunkirk, and Calais, by a great westward drive further north, but it diminishes that prospect. With the Germans out of Noyon and Roye, their last hopes of a direct advance on Paris fade away, for these places were at the apex of the salient where it approached within sixty miles of the city. Shortening the German line means equally shortening the allies' line, which may make the French more formidable at other points, notably about Verdun and in Champagne. To look a trifle beyond the actual fighting, the cession, as an example of Germany's inability to hold fast all her conquests, will greatly lessen her ability to draw advantage from them in any eventual peace negotiations.

In return for these serious losses, Germany stands to gain three things: First, a fresh line, stronger for defense than its predecessor; second, a quarter of a million troops, more or less, released from trench posts; third, a period of some few weeks to pass before the allies can bring up enough trench war material to put the new lines under serious pressure, and the consequent release during that brief time of perhaps another quarter-million men. Hindenburg must want them badly elsewhere, possibly in Russia.

Don Marquis' Column

Aden.
Barren rock and rugged grandeur
Rising from the sea.
Mysteries of ancient people
Greet the soul of me—
But I see in English faces
Longing for a tree!

Hunger for the rolling meadows
And the perfumed loam.
Oft I watch them unobserved—
Wistfully the room.
In their eyes dumb silent longings,
And a prayer for home!
EDMUND LEAMY.

It seems that Russia is now through with rum, Romanoffs, and rebellion.

Handbook for American Pacifists.
The world is so full of a number of things
I am sure we should all be as humble as bugs.

If a Hun slays one of your twins,
turn the other twin to him.

Talk a great deal about being willing
to die for humanity and some people
will forget that you are not willing
to fight for your own family and clan.

All combat is wrong.
Such being the case, if you must
find excuses for one of two combatants,
cannily excuse the one who
seems to be getting away with it.

Pray, do not let your aged mother
sit in a chair, but let her
sit in a neighbor's hitler, hitting him
is just as bad.

If a rowdy insults your wife on a
street car, lecture her severely when
she gets home.

She hadn't any business to be on a
car where she would be likely to be
insulted and thus stir up trouble.

Spirituality is a good word. In case
of argument, pull it early and often.
A great many people won't stop to
analyze what you mean by it.

If a thug, after taking your pocket-
book, kicks you in the abdomen,
say to him quite severely:

"Why, you Horrid Anarchist!
Don't you know that this is the
Twentieth Century, and that people
don't act the way you are acting in
the Twentieth Century? It is impos-
sible!"

It always hurts a thug's feelings
to tell him he is impossible.

Belgium is, if anything, more guilty
than Germany. Belgium Fought Back.

Never let your children read Mil-
ton's well-known poems. They may
get the idea that God isn't a pacifist.

Old Uncle Jim came home and kicked
Poor Aunt Elvira's teeth right down
her throat—
She fought him back. She'll go to hell.
The wicked, ungodly, old she-goat!

If a man gets soaked in the eye,
for no fault of his own, and then
goes and takes boxing lessons so that
he can come back effectively the
next time he is soaked, call him hy-
sterical.

Every one is hysterical who be-
lieves in any sort of preparation
against possible aggression.

It is hysterical to have a police
force.

It is especially hysterical for
Americans to think about arming.
America is at peace with all the
world. Nothing can happen to Amer-
ica. Nothing ever has happened. If
there is one nation more than another
that deserves the love and respect
of Americans it is Germany.

Germany has murdered our citi-
zens, destroyed our property, de-
clared a blockade against our com-
merce, striven to unite Mexico and
Japan against us, maintained a hos-
tile force of spies and reservists in
our cities, and she avows her actions
and glorifies them.

But it is hysterical to think of
preparing ourselves against trouble
with Germany.

When you run out of arguments,
accuse people who don't agree with
you of being crooked.

When you get scared, call it Moral
Courage.

Cuss Capitalism. The Capitalists of
all countries get together and plan
war.

It was the Capitalists of Belgium
who launched the Belgian armies in
a surprise attack at the heart of
undefended Germany, thus causing
the present war.

Honor is a silly thing. Who has it is
a winner.

If a man assaults your wife ask him
to dinner.

No matter how hard you work
against adequate preparation for war,
don't work for the abolition of such
armed forces as we already have.

The police force may, some time or
other, come in handy.

It is stupid and irrational, but it
might conceivably protect German
suspects from mob violence one of
these days.

And American pacifists owe much
to the disinterested support of their
German allies. Be loyal to your
friends. That is, of course, up to the
point of looking out for them
personally.

KEEPING UP WITH THE KOCAS.
From the Nebraska Signal, Geneva,
Fillmore county, Nebraska:

Anna Koca is ill.

Albert Koca drove to Milligan Tues-
day.

Frank Uldrich called on Albert Koca
Thursday.

Frank Podlesak called on Albert
Koca Friday.

Bohumil Podlesak called on Albert
Koca Monday.

Albert Koca shelled corn for Frank
Podlesak Friday.

Joe Slesak and Joe Bernasek autoed
to Albert Koca's Friday.

Alice Kaco visited Mrs. B. B. Podle-
sak and family last week.

Mrs. and Mrs. Albert Koca autoed to
Milligan Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koca autoed to
Lou Placek's Tuesday evening.

Albert Koca and Frank Podlesak
shelled corn for Frank Uldrich Friday.

Svee brothers and Albert Koca saw-
ed wood for Bohumil Podlesak Thurs-
day.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koca, Mr. and
Mrs. Louis Placek autoed to Albert
Novak's Tuesday evening.

James V. Kovak, Albert Koca, Frank
Koca, James Rut, Louis Koca and Joe
Koca visited Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koca
and family Sunday evening.

—DON MARQUIS.

\$100.00 In Gold For the Best Gardens

The Times for the purpose of encouraging the growing of vegetables in back yards and vacant lots offers \$100 in gold for the best gardens in the District, as follows:

For the best garden...\$50

For the second best...\$25

For the third best...\$15

For the fourth best...\$10

Those who wish to contest for these prizes should write to the Garden Editor, Washington Times, giving name of contestant and location of prospective garden. The board of judges will be chosen from well-known agricultural authorities.

TELL HOW TO RAISE EARLY VEGETABLES

Instructions From Department of Agriculture Give Advice on Peas and Beans.

For the benefit of those who are delaying the planting of their gardens on account of fear of frost, The Times today prints instructions from the Department of Agriculture which deal with peas, which are not easily damaged by frost, and can be planted at once, and beans.

Garden peas are a favorite crop in the home garden, and as they are not easily injured by light frosts, they may be planted as soon as the soil can be put in order in the spring. By selecting a number of varieties, it is possible to have a continuous supply of peas throughout a large portion of the growing season. In order to accomplish this, planting should be made every ten days or two weeks until warm weather comes.

The first plantings should be of small-growing quick-maturing varieties, such as Alaska, First and Best, and Gradus. These kinds do not require supports. They should be followed by the large wrinkled type of peas, such as Champion of England, Telephone, and Prize Taker. These may be supported on brush, on strings attached to stakes driven in the ground, or on wire netting.

Instructions on Planting.

Peas should be planted about two to three inches deep, in rows three to four feet apart. Some gardeners, however, follow the practice of planting in double rows six inches apart, with the ordinary space of three to four feet between these pairs of rows. With varieties requiring support, the rows may be planted in the narrow space between the rows.

Beans are more susceptible to cold than peas, and should not be planted until danger of frost is past and the soil has begun to warm up. They are, however, among the most desirable vegetables the home gardener can raise. There are many different kinds and varieties of beans, but for garden purposes they may be divided into two classes—string and flat. Both classes are grown commercially over the greater part of the East and adapt themselves to a wide diversity of soils and climates. They grow rapidly, and, therefore, leave the area in which they are planted ready for another crop. To procure a continuous supply, it is desirable to make plantings at intervals of ten days or two weeks from the time the ground is reasonably warm until hot weather sets in.

Pole and Bush Types.

Both string and lima beans are subdivided into pole and bush types. The pole lima bean should be planted with from eight to ten seeds in the hill, and after the plants become established should be thinned to three or four feet. Bush lima beans are planted five or six inches apart in rows three to four inches apart. Bush beans of the string type may be planted somewhat closer—the plants standing three or four inches apart in rows from twenty to twenty-four inches apart, if hand cultivation only is to be employed.

Beans of any kind should not be planted any deeper than is necessary to procure good germination. This should never be over two inches, and on heavy soil it should not be more than one and one-fourth and one and one-half inches.

Beets can be planted comparatively early in the season. It is not necessary to wait until the ground has become warm, if the danger of frost is past. The seed should be sown in drills four to six inches apart, and covered to a depth of about one inch. As soon as the plants are well up they should be thinned to stand three to four inches apart. From two to three plantings should be made in order to have a continuous supply of young, tender beets.

WILL INSURE ALL SHIPS

Those With Contraband Cargo Will Receive Full Protection.

American ships braving the danger of the German submarine zone will be given financial protection by the American Government in the future.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and officers of the War Risk Insurance Bureau have decided to extend insurance to all ships carrying anything but arms and ammunition and other fighting implements. All other contraband, conditional or otherwise, will be insured.

This action was taken following the sinking of the Vigilance, the Memphis and the Illinois. When the War Risk Bureau refused insurance on contraband but few ships could carry insurance except when in ballast, as was the case of the Illinois. It has been determined now, however, to extend the fullest measure of protection to ships that brave the U-boats.

HUNDREDS TO PUSH GARDENING PLANS

Two Big Meetings Will Give Impetus to Already Busy Movement.

(Continued from First Page.)

Connecticut avenue, to reorganize for the ensuing year. It is the intention of this club to give financial support to whichever movement it deems most practical and worthy of support.

The society is debating whether to support the movement to make the city playgrounds the center of gardening movements in Washington, or to follow the home achievement plan, which will tend to keep the children at home and do their gardening in back yards.

Speakers will be William Phelps Eno, who will set forth practical plans of gardening and landscape work, and Mr. Charles W. Wetmore, who will discuss the merits of the two plans referred to above. Among those who will attend this meeting are Mrs. Henry Marquardt, Mrs. Sam Spencer, Miss Isabel Sedgley, Mrs. E. H. Butler, Mrs. C. W. Charles, W. Wetmore, James Parmalee, and Charles H. Merryman.

Probably the largest and most important gardening meeting of the week will be held on Friday afternoon at the Jefferson school, E. L. Thurston, superintendent of schools; Thurston, superintendent of the Department of Agriculture; Miss Anne Beep, supervising principal of the eighth division, and Mrs. Giles, Scott Rafter will speak. At this meeting the home achievement plan will be brought up for consideration.

Seek Co-operation of All.

The meeting will include representatives of the Capital Garden Club, all business organizations, citizens' associations, and other civic bodies. Every president of a parent-teacher association in Washington has been asked to attend.

Each parent-teacher organization will be asked to conduct one of the home achievement clubs, and in this way it is hoped to interest every child in the city in home gardening.

The name of the club is to be called the "Home Achievement Club." The Girl Scouts, more than 400 strong, have entered into the spirit of the home achievement club, and are going to take up the work as rapidly as possible.

A meeting has been called for 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at 1005 Twentieth street, to which all the camp fire girls have been invited. A representative of the Department of Agriculture will give an illustrated talk on the home achievement club work.

The garden contest being conducted by The Times received the indorsement of the members of the Bradbury Heights Citizens' Association at its regular meeting last night.

The school house near the Bowen road and residents of the suburb will be asked to enter this contest at once. The matter was presented by J. E. Crowder, who stated that the residents of his suburb were specially fitted to enter such a contest because of the ground available for cultivation and also because of experience in past seasons.

He called attention to the fact that practically every one who had located in the suburb had done so with the idea of having a garden, and that the general interest manifested this year would be of great help to the community. O. A. Babe, president of the association, also commended the movement.

Want Free Seeds.

The Petworth Citizens' Association last night went on record as unanimously favoring The Times' gardening contest, not only as a means of beautifying the city, but as a most important reducer of the cost of living. All members of the association will be encouraged to enter the contest, and to encourage their children to enter the achievement club work during the summer. The association also passed a resolution asking that the District Commissioners be given the same power to distribute free garden seeds as Congressmen.

FAVOR GARDEN PLAN

Columbia Heights Citizens Will Cultivate Back Yards.

A campaign meeting in behalf of back-yard gardening will be held in Columbia Heights on the night of April 3, when the citizens' association of that section, having as its guests representatives from the Park View and Mt. Pleasant associations, will gather at a place yet to be selected and outline a program.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Columbia Heights Association was held at the home of the president, F. E. Rice, 1502 Columbia road, last night.

It was decided to invite Secretary of Agriculture Houston to attend the next meeting of the association, as well as Dr. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education, who will be asked to deliver an illustrated address.

The school children of that section of Washington are to be asked to attend the meeting.

President Rice is in hearty accord with the local representative of the every effort to make this meeting an object lesson in behalf of the good work.

Members of the association have already secured the consent of several vacant lot owners to use their lots for garden purposes. Those who wish to tender the use of other vacant lots may send their names and addresses to the secretary of the association, J. Clinton Hatt, of 1223 Harvard street northwest.

TO HOLD AQUATIC MEET.

The boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. has scheduled an aquatic meet Friday between teams representing the Washington Playgrounds and the Y. M. C. A. The same evening Arthur C. Smith, of Fort Myer, was local representative of the association with the District troops on the border, will speak on "With the Guards on the Mexican Border." Saturday evening a camp reunion supper will be held. A basketball game between the Hyattsville and Laurel High schools will be played, and the local boys' team will play the Baltimore association team.

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME CLUB

Twenty acres at Columbia road and Mt. Vernon avenue have been placed at the disposal of The Times by its owners, Dr. H. B. Hutchinson and Theron Thompson.

The ground is well fenced, and the soil good. The owners have been making a profit by using the ground for pasture, but have decided to donate the land to some gardening organization. The Times will turn this land over to the first club or society which agrees to properly cultivate and care for it.

LETTERS TO TIMES

FROM ITS READERS

Regrets Lecture Report Was Treated in Flippant Manner.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

An article in THE TIMES on Monday conveys a wrong impression of the statements of E. M. L. Gould in his lecture on "Marriage" delivered at the New Masonic Temple on Sunday afternoon.

It is to be regretted that your reporter chose for interview a hearer at the lecture who was manifestly unfriendly in viewpoint, and who felt to begin with that "heaven is only an idea, anyway." The entirely serious statements of the lecturer were treated in a superficial and flippant manner, by the "prominent woman attorney" whom you quote, when she asserted that according to inference from Mr. Gould, the single people would "go to the other place."

It ought to have been quite evident that when the lecturer said that "true marriage is a union of two souls," he was talking of a spiritual marriage much different from an earthly or legal marriage. The lecturer said that "it takes a man and a woman to make a complete human being." Heaven is a community of complete human beings, social conditions are normal, and since sex is of the soul and survives eternally, each individual is in marriage union with the one other individual with whom he or she can form a complete, two-in-one human being, a proper unit of society.

Single life in this world by no means unites an individual for that married life in heaven. Nor does merely civil or natural marriage here fit two people necessarily for eternal union in heaven.

I trust you will give this statement publicity as a partial correction of the wrong impression sure to be gained by your many readers from the reading of your Monday article on "anti-heaven."

PAUL SPERRY.

Washington, March 21.

Thanks Companies Should Offer Conductors and Motormen More Pay.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I am free from any union or organization, and therefore can express my views impartially.

I have been a constant daily passenger on the street cars for the past thirty years, riding between my home and place of business.

I have found the conductors and motormen, both courteous and accommodating. Gradually I have seen the patronage increase until of late the congestion has reached a condition that I am obliged to stand.

Although I pay for a seat, I am very glad to see the companies prosper, and am willing to put up with inconveniences in a reasonable way. But if the passengers suffer these conditions to the advantage of the companies' purse, why don't the companies, and especially in times like the present, voluntarily offer their employees more pay and not wait for the asking?

I am sure it would return to them good in many ways. I am thankful to be able to state that I have practically demonstrated the truth of such acts.

C. E. H.

Loyalty.

I will meet you, my love, in the shadowy land where the wild flowers bloom "neath the grass."

And the murmuring brook, as it flows to the sea

Seems to smile as you smile, bonnie lass.

If the bugle call sounds and we take up our arms,

I will fight for my country and you, For we men of today may be called on to pay

Like the boys of the Gray and the Blue.

As in days long ago, our fair women are brave.

They are loyal and staunch. They are true.

If we're called to the fight they will always do right.

As did the maids for the Gray and the Blue.